(c) whether the money, out of the above compensation amount, still remains unspent;

(d) if so, where it is being utilized; and

(e) whether citizens of the wards left out to be declared as Bhopal gas affected areas are also proposed to be provided with relief allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) As per the order of Hon'ble Supreme court, the Union Carbide Corporation paid a sum of US $ 470 million to the Union of India as compensation in full settlement of all claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. As on 31-7-2001, Rs. 1489.51 crore have been disbursed as compensation to gas victims under the following categories :

(i) Injury—Rs. 1404.78 crore

(ii) Loss of livestock—Rs. 0.06 crore

(iii) Loss of property—Rs. 0.11 crore

(iv) Death—Rs. 84.56 crore

(c) and (d) According to available information, a sum of approximately Rs. 475.76 crore was lying with Reserve Bank of India in dollar component as on 18-7-2001. This money will be used to give compensation in pending claim cases.

(e) In case, the claimants from 20 unaffected wards establish through evidence that they are affected by the gas, then they are also entitled for compensation.

ILL effects of Genetic Engineering Technology for seeds

†4324. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether PMAI has drawn Government's attention towards the neglect of health and environment hazards of the Genetic Modification Technology for seeds;

(b) if so, the ill effects of the process of genetic engineering submitted by the Association to Government; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) All genetically modified seeds, before introduction into the Indian environment, require authorization under the Environment Protection Act, 1989. Such authorization is provided by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests after satisfactory evaluation of bio safety from the use of such material including safety to human and animal health. The Government of India has not yet accorded approval for commercial release of any Genetically Engineered seeds in the country.

Developing environment friendly fertilizers

4325. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken till date, to encourage production/ research for developing environment friendly fertilizers, like Bio-fertilizers, in the country;

(b) what is the present position regarding supply/demand thereof, Statewise;

(c) what are figures of import/export for the last three years, till date, indicating foreign exchange involvement in respect of Fertilizers/Bio-fertilizers as well as targeted growth fixed during 2001-2002; and

(d) whether any Committee has been set-up to promote expansion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) In order to encourage production/research for development of environment friendly fertilizer, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research under institute programme as well as All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on "Biological Nitrogen Fixation" with 14 centres located at various State Agriculture Universities in the country have been giving special attention on identification and development of improved and efficient strains of microbes with greater shelf life and to improve their capability to function as effective bio-fertilizers either by way of fixing nitrogen or by mobilizing soil nutrients like phosphorus, zinc etc. for crop use. Similarly, under the AICRP on "Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of Farm and City Wastes", documentation of organic resources available in the country and the improved technology for urban and rural composting including enriched